

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. George Bernard Jackson to Speak at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Breakfast

Twenty-fourth Annual MLK Jr. Celebration Slated for Monday, January 18 at Cornerstone Event Center

Salisbury, NC_December 31, 2009 – The Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council proudly announces Dr. George Bernard Jackson, founding pastor and CEO of Citadel of Faith Christian Fellowship, Inc. of Thomasville, North Carolina, will speak at the 24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Breakfast. The event will be held on Monday January 18 at The Event Center (Cornerstone Church Campus), 315 Webb Road. The breakfast celebration commences at 7:15 am and kicks-off a day of city-wide festivities honoring the national holiday. Those interested in attending the event may contact Ruth Kennerly of the City of Salisbury's Human Resources Department at 704-638-2168 or 704-638-5217.

Jackson, the youngest son of Dr. William T. and Pearlana M. Jackson of Salisbury, is a 1980 graduate of Chester Senior High School in South Carolina. He attended North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. During his studies at NCCU, Jackson received the Pepsi Cola WDUR Pride of the Community Award, the Volunteer Service Award and twice received the Frances A. Kornegay Scholarship for Outstanding Leadership to the university community.

Additional education includes completion of a year at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. Following studies at Southeastern, Jackson transferred to Shaw University in Raleigh, where he received his Master's of Divinity degree with honors in May of 1996. Jackson obtained his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Friends International Christian University, Merced, California, in October 1998. Jackson also received the Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care from Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC, in May of 2009.

A dedicated community activist, Jackson is the founder and chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Social Action Committee, Inc. His outreach and focus through the organization assists high school students with development of leadership skills and delivery of oratorical presentations for scholarship receipt. In addition, Jackson serves as an adjunct professor at both Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston Salem and at Davidson Community College in Lexington. He serves on the Thomasville Human

Relations Commission and by way of gubernatorial appointment; Dr. Jackson serves on the North Carolina Martin Luther King Jr. Commission.

Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council and the Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council said, "We are indeed thankful that Dr. Jackson has agreed to join our community for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. In recognition of the spirit of Dr. King, I would like to thank every citizen for their continued efforts in working to create racial harmony throughout our community."

The Humanitarian Breakfast will commence at 7:15 am. Entertainment will be provided by the Community Choir, led by Dr. Phillip Burgess, and by the Rowan Choral Society, and Katherine Fleming. Tickets to the Humanitarian Breakfast are \$8 each and are available from Ruth Kennerly at the number listed above, or by contacting Darlene Boling, Rowan County, at 704-216-8105, or Bob Setzer, F&M Bank, 704-637-1572, ext. 217. Tickets are also available at the Rowan County Visitors Center at 704-638-3100. Food Lion is the 2010 Presenting Sponsor for the event. Additional event sponsors include Miller Davis, Bank of North Carolina, Wachovia Bank, Cornerstone Church, and Salisbury Parks & Recreation.

A Memorial Ceremony will be held at 9:30 am at the Oak Grove Freedman's Cemetery, corner of Liberty and North Church Streets. The Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Parade will follow immediately at 10 am. The parade procession will commence at the Freedman Cemetery site and proceed from Liberty Street and turn right onto Main Street. The parade will process through Downtown Salisbury, turning left on Bank Street and conclude at the Salisbury Civic Center, 315 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue South. Upon arrival at the Salisbury Civic Center, citizens will enjoy a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration underway. The festive event will offer entertainment by Divided by Four, the United House of Prayer Band, Kujimani Creative Arts Praise Dance Ministry, and Latino dancers. On-site vendors will provide food, refreshment, and arts and crafts items for purchase. Individuals with questions regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. parade, may contact Deborah Ross-Turnbull at 704-636-8771 or Sherry Hawthorne at 704-499-1882.

Additional events, commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held throughout the weekend. The 33rd Annual Humanitarian Awards will take place at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1920 Shirley Avenue, on Sunday, January 17 at 3 pm. For more information, please contact the church office at 704-637-0954. The VA Medical Center, 1601 Brenner Avenue, will host a Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Friday, January 15. The time is to be determined. For more information, please contact Reverend Ethel Revis at 704-636-3330.

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